

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

1. (Original) A liquid crystal display device comprising:
a first substrate having thereon a pixel electrode and an active element;
a second substrate having thereon an opposed electrode; and
a liquid crystal layer interposed between said first and second substrates
with said electrodes facing each other;

wherein when a direction of an orientation regulating force given to liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer within a region of said pixel electrode is taken as a first direction and a direction of an orientation regulating force due to an edge of said pixel electrode on said first substrate given to said liquid crystal molecules near said edge is taken as a second direction, an orientation control element giving an orientation regulating force in a third direction which counteracts said orientation regulation force in said second direction is locally provided in a part near said edge.

2. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said orientation control element is constituted by a plurality of fine slits formed in said pixel electrode in an oblique direction relative to an extending direction of said edge or a plurality of fine protrusions formed on said pixel electrode in a oblique direction relative to an extending direction of said edge.

3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein at least a part of said fine slits or said fine protrusions are different in shape and/or spaced interval of arrangement from each other;

4. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said orientation control element is a hollow formed in a part other than said pixel electrode.

5. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said orientation control element is formed so that an angle ϕ_2 made by said second and third directions is bigger than an angle ϕ_1 made by said first and second directions when said angle ϕ_1 is obtuse.

6. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein a dielectric anisotropy of said liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer is negative.

7. The device according to claim 1, wherein another orientation control element regulating said liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer to be oriented in said first direction is provided on said second substrate.

8-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) A liquid crystal orientation method of liquid crystal molecules of a liquid crystal layer in a liquid crystal display device comprising a first substrate having thereon a pixel electrode and an active element, a second substrate having thereon an opposed electrode, and said liquid crystal layer interposed between said first and second substrates with said electrodes facing each other, said method comprising the step of:

giving an orientation regulating force to a part near an edge of said pixel electrode on said first substrate in a third direction which is different from a first direction of an orientation regulating force given to said liquid crystal molecules of said liquid crystal layer within a region of said pixel electrode and a second direction of an orientation regulating force given due to said edge of said pixel electrode on said first substrate to said liquid crystal molecules near said edge.

33. (Cancelled)